

**CITY OF KANKAKEE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 1ST, 2020  
7:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** I would like to call the meeting to order. I will start the meeting off with prayer and move forward with the Pledge of Allegiance by the City Council. The meeting is viewable on the City's YouTube Channel, Website and Comcast Channel 4. Moving on to Public Comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Due to COVID 19 and Social Distancing, the City of Kankakee has modified procedures in order to accept public comments. The following public comments were submitted to: [publiccomment@citykankakee-il.gov](mailto:publiccomment@citykankakee-il.gov) by 3:00 P.M. on Monday, June 1st, 2020.

**RACHEAL SMITH:** I am emailing because I wanted to make you all aware that I back having a parade for the seniors of Kankakee despite the virus that is going on in our community. These seniors need something to uplift them as their senior year was snatch away from them because of covid-19. Please consider this small pebble that will be thrown in their pond that might one day make a big ripple.

**DEANNAH SHEPHERD:** I believe that our Seniors have been dealing with a lot during this pandemic through no fault of their own so it is important that we encourage and support the young people as they celebrate the milestone in their lives. It is still a time of celebration despite what we are dealing with. I believe recognizing all of the Seniors will keep them encouraged to keep their heads up and keep moving forward.

**YVETTE LANE:** To whom it may concern, I'm in support of the senior graduation parade this June. I believe our young adults have earned it and this virus should not be allowed to steal that experience. I understand you have the ability to help this dream come true and it is my prayer that it does. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for considering it.

**KRISTA DEAR:** To whom it may concern, I would like to submit a request

to the board asking for approval of a graduation parade to celebrate the 2020 class of the Kankakee High School. Unfortunately, Covid-19 changed the many different ways for graduates to celebrate their success. In an effort to beat Covid-19 and not allow this pandemic to damper their graduation celebrations; it would be a great honor for the board to approve a parade to celebrate their accomplishments. I believe that Kankakee families and graduates can execute this parade in a safe manner. The city of Kankakee can come together to show their unity and support of the class of 2020. Thank you for your consideration.

**RAEVEN CAROLL:**

Black Lives Matter. I am a resident of Kankakee. My question to you all is, how come none of you were out there with us in either of the protest? Thank you

**RAKEYA SMITH:**

I think this is a wonderful thing to do for the graduates in regards to the graduate parade.

**YAQUANTIS ADAMS:**

I am asking that my community of Kankakee to come together to celebrate the young adults of 2020. With all of the dynamics transpiring in the world at this time, it's imperative that we show these young men and women the support, guidance, and love that is needed. I'm asking that the council persons vote yes during the issue of Kankakee High Class of 2020 parent-initiated parade. They deserve to be acknowledged and celebrated, just as the students throughout the county have. This event would be of a more community celebratory ceremony; one that shows that we are proud citizens of Kankakee as well as a positive memory for our graduates during this time of transition in lieu of recent events. This is an opportunity to show the pride and solidarity that we bare as a close-knit community. It would be my hopes of achieving this for our children as they are our future. Thank you.

**REBECCA MYART:**

To Whom It May Concern: I am standing in support of the parent initiated Senior Parade for June 7, 2020. The class of 2020 has endured through unprecedented times the last 2 months. They have worked hard for 12 long years just to have the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishment stolen from them by COVID-19. We have parades for various reasons in this city and this honoring of our class of 2020 graduates with a parade should be important to all of us. Please allow this parade to happen.

**JOHNNIE GRAHAM WICKS:** I just wanted to express my support for the parade on June 6, 2020 for the 2020 Seniors in Kankakee... life has really been tough in so many ways for everyone in 2020. Our Seniors have lost so much of their Senior Year experiences and I believe that this parade is a way to allow them to walk Proud for their many accomplishments. Thanks.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** So those are the public comments. I'm also going to read my statement. As we all know, George Floyd was murdered by an officer in Minneapolis, and a lot of people have been reaching out to me, across sections of this community. So, people are asking what does the Mayor have to say, I want you all to know that this is a very emotional issue for everybody, your City Council Members your Mayor, other leaders in our community but I always want to make sure that I respond in a way that is measured and not emotional and reactionary. So, I want us to draft my own comments so there will be no question about where I stand and how I feel on this issue. As you all know, I'm a social worker by trade and my career has been devoted to justice and equality and my intent is not to do harm to anyone. But some of the things I say may make some people uncomfortable so if you are uncomfortable I ask that you let that sit with you for a little bit and question why and see how you can move forward from that discomfort, because for some people is going to take that, being uncomfortable. So, I issued my statement: Mayor Wells-Armstrong responds in light of George Floyd's death and recent protests. In the past week George Floyd yet another unarmed black man in the United States has died at the hands of a white police officer who knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes while ignoring, plead a Mr. Floyd who repeatedly stated, I can't breathe. Additionally, the officer stared at the crowd with his hands in his pocket, while continuously applying pressure to Mr. Floyd's neck, despite public outcry from spectators. Mayor Chasity Wells- Armstrong serving as the first black Mayor proudly representing a diverse community in her home town. Mayor Wells-Armstrong stated, "It is absolutely abhorrent and heartbreaking to continuously witness a pattern of violence to our black men in this country who are targeted by law enforcement officers. These heinous acts committed by these officers demonstrates a lack of regard for the humanity and dignity of our black men. Their response to

this violence must come from all of us who profess to be God fearing, fair, and decent human beings. It could no longer be a black issue, as this is an American issue. All of us wants to live in communities where our relationships with our police officers are strong, where we work in partnership to reduce and solve crimes and where our kids and families feel safe, ending this cycle of police brutality will require true leaders who are willing to acknowledge the racism that is embedded in the American criminal justice system and work for the betterment of humankind. In my city, I'm fortunate to have many officers who exemplify the highest standards associated with the badge, they wear every day. We make efforts to diversify our police department so that our department reflects the community. We promote activities where residents and offices are able to build relationships with one another, and we provide a (inaudible) for officers to live in the city so that they can take ownership of the neighborhood they police. Lastly, these incidents are leaving a lasting impact of trauma on victims' families and communities and hurt people hurt people. We see it in the outrage of protests across this country. Black people have been shown, time and again that the criminal justice system was not created for their benefit it harms them, it fails them, and sometimes, it kills them. Therefore, allies from all walks of life are needed to bring real change. Black people are tired. My question is, who will stand with us for the duration of this fight, peaceful protests are a step toward change, however additional measures must be taken to have more impact. Now is the time for us to make a stand together against racism and create a new history that makes all Americans proud". I'm going to add some additional comments and next steps for the city of Kankakee in my Mayor's updates. But I do want to acknowledge a young man who was from the city of Kankakee His name is Keenan Love. He's a native Kankakeean, young African American man who is walking 46 miles. One mile for every year that Floyd lived. He started in Chicago, I think on Saturday, and he's still making his way to Kankakee. Many of us, sent him cash to help him make sure he had food and water. Our community members have checked on him several members have driven to the locations along his path to make sure that he was okay and that he was able to physically endure his journey. So, I want to thank you Keenan Love for your example of peaceful protest. And I want to thank you for giving us an image of a young black

man that's doing something positive for his community.  
Moving on Item 5 Roll Call of the City Council, please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **PRESENT:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis,  
Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall,  
Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Present (0) Absent

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Department Heads.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **PRESENT:** Kosman, Schuldt, Kubal, McGrath,  
Schiel, Piggush, Nelson, Bertrand, Hoffman, Ellexson,  
Brewer-Watson.

### **MINUTES**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Moving on to the Minutes for Monday, May 4th, 2020 and  
Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 will be provided at a later date.  
We have no Petitions. Moving on to Communications  
Item 8A.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**ITEM 8A:** Rosetta Garner is Requesting a Noise Permit at Jag's Bar,  
481 North Schuyler Avenue to Host "Jag's Alfresco"  
Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, through Wednesday, September  
30, 2020, from 4:00 P.M. Until 12:00 Midnight.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD MALONE MARSHALL:** I so move Mayor.

**ALD PRUDE:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderwoman Malone Marshall and Seconded  
by Alderman Prude. Any discussion? Alderman Osenga?

**ALD OSENGA:** Yes Mayor, am I reading this right? This is going to go  
from June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> or is this written wrong?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** That's what they have...Alderwoman Malone Marshall go  
ahead.

**ALD MALONE MARSHALL:** Thank you Madam Mayor. Yes, I just wanted to speak on  
this because I spoke with Ms. Garner, about this prior to  
her submitting or, and due to the COVID-19 stipulations

that have been put on the bars, they will be trying to do outside seating because they have a large parking area south of their building, and they are requesting to be able to once allowed it now, to have seating on the outside and so that's why the noise request permit has been made.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Anyone else? Okay, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 8B.

**ITEM 8B:** Yaquantis Adams is Requesting Street Closure of Curtis Avenue, Starting at the Furniture Liquidator Parking Lot, 1375 West Jefferey Street, Going North to Station Street, Ending at the Train Depot to Host A Parade "Celebrating Kankakee Class of 2020," on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from 1:00 P.M. Until 2:30 P.M.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD MALONE MARSHALL:** So move Mayor.

**ALD SWANSON:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderwoman Malone Marshall and Seconded by Alderwoman Swanson. Any discussion? Hearing none, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving onto Item 8C.

**ITEM 8C:** Kankakee Farmer's Market is Requesting Street Closure of the 200 Block of South Schuyler Avenue Every Saturday from June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, through October 31, 2020, from 6:30 A.M. until 12:30 P.M.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD GALL:** So move Mayor.

**ALD O'BRIEN:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderwoman Gall and Seconded by Alderman O'Brien. Any discussion? Hearing none, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Standing Committee Reports Item 9A.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Moving on to Standing Committee Reports.

**ITEM 9A:** Community Development – Alderwoman Swanson  
The meeting was held Monday February 3rd, 2020  
Highlights include: There wasn't really anything other than Barbie, keeping us updated as the excellent job she just does with all of the grants and everything that they're doing at CDA there it was nothing. No highlights in the minutes.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Moving on to Item 9B.

**ITEM 9B:** Economic Development - Alderman Tetter.  
The meeting was held Thursday, February 27th, 2020  
Highlights include: There's a host of things that we discuss some of them have already been addressed and implemented in terms of development in an incentive application for the TIF's has been addressed. We're still working on a budget for ECDA. That's pretty much the gist of it we have several other meetings, minutes that will come before this body. I'd say that's pretty much the gist of it.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Moving on to Item 9C.

**ITEM 9C:** Community Development – Alderwoman Swanson  
The meeting was held on Monday, March 2nd, 2020  
There was still there's really nothing to highlight in the Minutes. Just a basic update on current policies and



Procedures.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Moving on to Item 9D.

**ITEM 9D:**

License & Franchise – Alderman Curtis

The meeting was held on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Highlights include: We had public comments from three individuals: two bar owners and one gaming operator. We had about 21 items from legal and from last questions or recommendations from the committee. We made great headway at this meeting of the 21 items I think that if I'm looking at my notes correctly we're close to 18 of them were agreed with; with legal or the committee was in full agreement on. There's three items that still need to be discussed with the committee, and we plan on hopefully finalizing this on Thursday, so that we can get this move to Council for vote.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Moving on to Item 9E.

**ITEM 9E:**

Budget Committee – Alderman O'Brien

The meeting was held on Monday, May 11, 2020

Highlights include: Reviewing the financials from the end of the fiscal year. So that was part of the focus we began the meeting, though. Mayor you presented sort of state of the state of budgeting during the COVID-19 pandemic. A lot of unknowns, yet, but there is seems to be additional federal aid available. A lot of it going to larger cities. You mentioned that the National League of Cities and others are advocating for separate additional aid to smaller communities such as the city of Kankakee so more to come, but that was a good update. Regarding the financial reports for the year as of the end of the fiscal year approximately 75% of the budgeted revenue has been received, that's not unusual because some of that comes in, in future months and will be accrued back to this fiscal year, the expenditures through the end of the year were at approximately, 88%, again, that will go higher in the next few months so we'll monitor that but most of the meeting was focused on discussion of the first draft of the 2021 budget. Budgeting is difficult and challenging in its own way every year but especially so this year with pandemic and the impact on every aspect of society, including local government. So, we just kind of got an overview from Comptroller Kubal with her work to date and figure that We will have a couple of additional extra meetings in



Addition to our regular meetings in June and July so more to come. Our next meeting is a week from today.

### **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Moving on Item 10A Report of Officers City of Kankakee. May I have a motion to approve those bills?

**ALD FAFORD:** I move that we approve the report of officers, place the money in the in the proper accounts and pay the bills in the amount of \$699,949.02.

**ALD LEWIS:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion made by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion? Okay. Alderman Osenga?

**ALD OSENGA:** Yes, Mayor. Check number 76447...for \$549.00

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Yes, that was for the Phenomenal Women Event that would have been...back to the previous fiscal year and it was volunteer I believe. Correct Elizabeth?

**ELIZABETH KUBAL:** That's correct.

**ALD OSENGA:** Okay, thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Anybody else? Okay, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Faford, Swanson, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
**NAYS:** Tall, Crawford  
(12) Ayes (2) Nays (0) Abstentions

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 11 Unfinished Business we have none. Item 12 New Business.

**ITEM 12A:** Ordinance Approving an Easement Agreement Between the City of Kankakee Agreement Between the City of Kankakee and Heritage Executive Centre, Inc., for the Proposed Library Green Improvements at 200 East Court Street, Kankakee, Illinois. (*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**NEIL PIGGUSH:**

Thank you Mayor. This is an easement, we were required to pass in order to show we had land control of the proposed project that we submitted on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, for the Fast Track Public Infrastructure Grant Program. The owners have already signed the agreement, and we're in agreement with the terms, it's a proposal. It's a 20 foot by 125ft easement on the back off the of the right away on the east side of Schuyler and the 100 block of South Schuyler, just south of the stairs on the east side of Schuyler, and allows to construct the library green improvements that were bid out as in the previous Schuyler Avenue streetscape project and we've included it as part of our grant application.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to suspend the rules that would interfere with the passage of the ordinance.

**ALD TETTER:** So move.

**ALD COBBS:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderman Cobbs. Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. May I have a motion to place the ordinance on final passage?

**ALD TETTER:** So move.

**ALD COBBS:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderman Cobbs. Any discussion? Roll Call.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12B.

**ITEM 12B:**

Ordinance Approving a Preliminary and Final Plat for 869 West Jeffery Street in the City of Kankakee, Illinois.  
(1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading).

**MIKE HOFFMAN:**

Yes, this is a preliminary and final plat for the (inaudible) is actually at the corner of eighth and Jeffrey, as you recall we had an annexation and zoning of this property in December of last year, to C-1 zoning, they are now moving forward they've been working diligently with Neil and I on the engineering and site plan for this project there about ready to go. Tonight, they would anticipate...either at the end of this month or early in July. The Planning Board held a public hearing on this plat. The last month and recommended unanimously approval. Alderman Faford did have some comments on this actually and they address three of the four anyway. He had a concern with a tree at the north end of the property that he wanted removed we're going to do that. I want to make sure that there was a sidewalk provided long as they're going to do that. He wanted to make sure that there was some trash cans out there they're going to have a trash can, at the entrance to the building. He also did want to see brick or masonry on the other three sides of the building. They don't feel that's appropriate and are not going to do that give them cost reasons and give back to them an extensive landscape plan in place to this project. So, we're recommended approval and staff is comfortable with the project as well.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to suspend the rules that would interfere with the passage of the ordinance.

**ALD SWANSON:** I will make that motion

**ALD FAFORD:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderwoman Swanson and Seconded by Alderman Faford. Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. May I have a motion to place the ordinance on final passage?

**ALD SWANSON:** I will make that motion

**ALD FAFORD:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderwoman Swanson and Seconded by Alderman Faford. Any discussion? Alderman Curtis?

**ALD CURTIS:** Quick question. The detention area, is that a dry detention area?

**MIKE HOFFMAN:** Yes....except for when it needs to be wet.

**ALD CURTIS:** I understand. Normally it would be grass and mowed.

**MIKE HOFFMAN:** Yes.

**ALD CURTIS:** Okay, thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Neil do you have anything?

**NEIL PIGGUSH:** Yes, it's a dry bottom detention pond they have like a spill over structure for this detention pond, but it'll have rocks at the base of the outflow structure but it is all grass and it's going to be mowed and maintained

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any other questions? Okay, Roll Call.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brein, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12C.

**ITEM 12C:** Appointment  
Planning Board - Debra Terrill

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** I'm re appointing Debra Terrill to the Planning Board it's a 3-year term. I did not include her resume because she has been on the Planning Board for a very long time. She's very knowledgeable and very passionate about the city. She contacted me and would like to stay on the board. May I have a motion to approve her appointment. Alderman Osenga?

**ALD OSENGA:** I will make that motion.

**ALD GALL:** I'll second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded  
By Alderwoman Gall. Any discussion? Hearing none, all  
in favor Aye?

**COUNCIL:** Aye. Opposed same sign.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you all and welcome back to Debra. Moving onto  
Item 13A.

### **MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ITEM 13A:** Resolution Declaring the City of Kankakee is Essential: In  
Support to Reopen and Rebuild Local American  
Economies (*Mayor reads Resolution*).

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve the Resolution?

**ALD COBBS:** So move Mayor.

**ALD LEWIS:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Cobbs and Seconded  
by Alderwoman Lewis. All in favor, Aye?

**COUNCIL:** Aye.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Opposed same sign? Thank you and I will get this sent on  
to the National League of Cities. Moving on to Item 13B.

**ITEM 13B:** Resolution Approving an Agreement to the  
Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of  
Kankakee and the Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency  
"KRMA".

**MIKE MCGRATH:** This is just an amendment to the IGA was drafted by the  
Attorney for KRMA and it just makes them explain which  
definitional changes to the IGA that was passed a number  
of years ago. One major change is that allows current  
members to transfer some or all portion of their interest in  
the system. I believe that one of the members, has a deal in  
place or contemplating a deal to transfer sell some portion  
that they currently control to Aqua. It doesn't affect the  
makeup of the KRMA Board, and it doesn't affect the

resources or the fiscal impact...If anyone has any questions it's pretty straightforward as far as the definition, and the amendment.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any questions? Alderman Osenga?

**ALD OSENGA:** Yes, Do we know is there a municipality that's looking to get out of KRMA?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** It's not getting out of karma is the Village of Bourbonnais, they are interested in selling a portion of their line to Aqua, but they wouldn't be able to do it unless we made an amendment the IGA. So, nobody's pulling out of KRMA.

**ALD OSENGA:** Okay, thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** You're Welcome. Alderman Curtis?

**ALD CURTIS:** Thank you Mayor, would the Village Bourbonnais still have one of their representatives as a designation of KRMA or would Aqua have that seat going forward?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** They are not selling anything... a portion of their line they still are part of KRMA. Aqua will not represent them.

**ALD CURTIS:** Okay. Then the second question I had was on exhibit one, The allocation of capacity. Was there any changes made to that or is that exactly as it was before?

**MIKE MCGRATH:** Mayor, do you know? I don't know offhand if it's changed.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** They haven't done anything yet the IGA was just changed the language so if they want to go through with it they can, they have the authority to do it so nothing has happened yet. Nothing has changed.

**ALD CURTIS:** I was talking about exhibit one the city of Kankakee 13.6 Bourbonnais, Bradley and Aroma Park their capacities are listed. Are those the same numbers that we currently have in place or has that been differentiated with this agreement?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** No, everything is the same. Alderman Brown?

**ALD BROWN:** Yes, everything is the same. There's been no increase in capacity.

**ALD CURTIS:** Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Anybody else? Okay, motion to approve.

**ALD BROWN:** I make that motion to approve the resolution.

**ALD O'BRIEN:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderman O'Brien. Any other discussion? Roll Call.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall  
Malone Marshall, Prude  
**ABSTENTIONS:** Crawford.  
(13) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Abstention

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. We have no need for an Executive Session this evening and Item 15 no need for Action. Moving on to Item 16.

#### **ALDERMEN & ALDERWOMEN COMMENTS**

**ALD TALL:** Yes. I just like to make mention that Bob Glade, our former Plumbing Inspector passed away today. He was also a member of the Illinois Capital Team. I just asked that we do a moment of silence. In honor of him. Thank you.

**ALD BROWN:** Public Safety will meet tomorrow at 5:30P.M. Larry Osenga will chair that meeting. I'm getting ready to leave town. I have to go assist my wife in some things and I'm just preparing if I have to stay longer, so you might see me around tomorrow but I'm leaving. Thank you and I thank Larry Osenga for doing that for me.

**ALD SWANSON:** I just wanted everybody to be aware that tomorrow with the Kankakee County Board meeting. They are voting on a resolution to try to move Kankakee County to the next step to not be included in the numbers that are Chicago numbers. I just want everybody to maybe look into their resolution and maybe as the City Council look to support the County in their actions.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** So, it is to be removed, out of the Chicago Region?

**ALD SWANSON:** Yeah, I know that Representative Parkhurst was part of this



and the County is wanting to move to the next stage of opening up the businesses to move to stage four where right now we're at stage three. So, I just think that's a good thing for all of us, while we're in the city so we should be aware of it and I know that it's on their agenda for their meeting tomorrow.

**ALD OSENGA:**

Yes, Mayor Thank you. I have a couple issues I want to talk about tonight. The number one issue for me is the shots fire calls that we've been lately. There's been numerous shootings in the last couple of weeks. There's been eight shot fire calls with two people being shot. We're lucky we don't have two homicides. The Sunny Side area that normally has very little activity. There's all kinds of shots or calls, taking place down there now. I don't know who's mad at who or who, gang banger might be just down there but something needs to be done here, we're gonna get an onslaught of murders if these guys start shooting straighter. I would like to see in the police department take that aggressive plan here and start targeting some of these known offenders, you know, instead of just being reactive taking reports, and you know it is what it is. We have to do something, you know, gotta arrest these guys, locate them, arrest and prosecuted them. They have to go to jail. We got to do something. On the 18th, we had...and three shots fire calls on the 20<sup>th</sup>, we had one on the 26th we had two shots fire calls, on the 30th we had another shot fire call, and we just had one yesterday...well, early this morning... have another shots fire call that's eight shots fire calls. Something's got to be done here, or, you know. We're going to have a real long hot summer, if somebody guys aren't identified and getting off the screen. Now my next issue, is something that is fairly new to the west side of Kankakee. I've been told that some kids have moved over here in the writing those motocross style motorcycles around town four-wheelers, ATVs are running up and down the streets. The other day there was probably 20-25 of them running down with down Court Street, and four or five of them doing wheelies probably 50 miles an hour right down West Court Street. You know, somebody's going to get killed, and when one reads, I don't think we correct me if I'm wrong anybody can jump in here but you know we have an no pursuit policy, and I can understand that to a certain degree, I don't really have a problem with that but the police officers working the streets have to know where these kids are living at. If the vehicles gonna be on

the street and they are supposed to have headlights, are supposed to have brake lights and supposed to have license plates. Ride to the house write tickets and tow these vehicles. These kids got to stop. They blew through the stop sign playing by my house five of them. Probably 50 miles an hour laughing. So, I'm asking the police department to step up here and do something here before somebody gets killed. Thank you.

**ALD TETTER:**

I have just a few items. One is I want to again, ask the general counsel, if we have any updates on the request for the residency ordinance that I've asked for, that one issue, understand it's a public act as well. So, I would like to get some type of clarity on that from our general counsel, please. You said you would email them (inaudible) as of yet. Secondly, in light of all of the water that we've gotten all the rain. I know that there's been a lot of concerns from the constituents overall nice regarding flooded basements, etc. I don't know if there's anything that we can do to assist or to prevent that from happening. I'm open to any suggestions from our City Engineers or ESU. Thirdly, I would like to give our Chief of Police, a shout out for the reduction in crime from his report journal that our crime continues to trend down which is good. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the appointment of the (inaudible) board of the Mayor. I don't think people really understand that's something that has been awarded ...she's been appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and that's a very important board are committee to be on. What they are, they will oversee provide guidance and develop structure for the administering the (inaudible) proceeds 25% of all the money that comes from the sale of cannabis. Again, it can only be sold to adults over 21 and 25% of that money will be designated to combat some of the issues that we are discussing as it relates to things like gun injury rates, unemployment, child poverty and commitments to those who returned from being incarcerated. So, I think that that is going to be great, given that we're going to have some financial constraints. This will be great and also having someone else at the table. That will represent the interests of the city of Kankakee and nearby communities that think is great. I just want to make us all aware of that. I want to say to you Mayor, congratulations on that appointment.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you Alderman Tetters. Alderman O'Brien?

**ALD O'BRIEN:**

Yes. Thank you, Mayor. I want to just touch briefly on the murder of George Floyd and the impact here in our community. I think obviously the events in Minneapolis were terrible, horrible, and I think we're seeing the response of the country as speaks to economic and racial inequalities throughout our country that need to be addressed tonight. I thought about how, how can we as our community, I think our communities responded well and we've (inaudible) ourselves well. But how do we maybe use this as an impetus for positive, lasting change? My thought at this point is for all to think about, what can we do individually? As individual people in our community on our block, as community and city leaders, as business people, as people involved in civic and charitable groups throughout our communities. What can we do? I think if we have that thought every day, what can I do to help address this issue these inequalities that have plagued our nation for so long? I think that's the beginning of how we can start to address this issue effectively. So, I think if we can incorporate that into our work here in the city, our work as parents and family members, then we can hopefully begin to have some meaningful impact on this very difficult issue. Thank you.

**ALD MALONE MARSHALL:**

Yes, Thank you Madam Mayor. I just wanted to make a couple points on one of my concerns, is how the streets are flooding faster than usual, it seems to be. It just could be me but I just want to ask once again I guess we could look into the sewer system and see if something's, just not going according to normal, because it just seemed like is flooding faster than usual. I know we've had a lot of rain, but I'm just asking that we look into it and see if it's something that we can be doing to so that it doesn't flood as quickly as possible. I have a resident over on Union Street, that has a concern about her basement flooding, all the time and it's a viable concern from a business that's on that street over on the west on the west side of my Ward. So, I'm just asking if they could look into it a little bit farther and see if something can be done about that flooding on Union Street because she has lost her stuff like five times. Yes, from the flood in her basement. And it's not because of her house it's because of the flooding for something outside coming in. So, I would just like that to be looked at. Also, I just want to speak on the issue of an up rise we have throughout the country right now, and I just asked that we all look and see from our young people, how they are coming together and how they have made a statement that unity works. I just

wanted to say that we need to applaud them, and we can learn from them by us working together, just as they are now. Just shortly ago, while we were in the meeting. The whole group walked past my house going down to Court Street. They have worked walked together from Peotone. Manteno, Bourbonnais, they are all together as one and they are walking for the death of this man in Minneapolis. It's not even from here, but that is bringing them together and they are showing leadership skills by the marches and everything that they are doing. I just want to see us work together and admire each other and lift up each other and work together, just as our young people are doing. Let's applaud them. My third thing is, thank you all for allowing the Seniors' of 2020 to have a car parade. It's the least that we can do for them and I really happy that everybody on the board approved that. Thank you.

**ALD COBBS:**

First of all, Congratulations. It's good to have somebody at the seat at the (inaudible) board. I'm sure, as you always (inaudible) how well you represent our city, and I look forward to that economic plus from your representation. Additionally, Mayor I just want to thank you once again for your comments about George Floyd and also Mike O'Brien, I echo his same sentiment. It's something that we have to keep in our minds on a daily basis. How can we continue to be socially friendly to people who don't look like us also like to commend the city of Kankakee police and in assisting in a safe protest of our city. The property damage I'm told was minimal at best, and they continue to be an example as Alderman Malone Marshall stated to those of us who are adults. I have to say that we have to keep the conversation, open, and what happens is when things like this happen, we talk about it for a little while, but we don't implement the proper plans to ensure that it continues, so Mayor thank you so much for all that you've done to continue to speak up a social on economic justice, and for my fellow Aldermen, thank you so much. Let's not forget about this conversation in our future goings and comings. Thank you so much. That's all I got.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any other Aldermen? Moving on to Department Heads. Let's start with Chief Kosman.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any other Aldermen? Moving on to Department Heads.

Let's start with Chief Kosman.

**CHIEF KOSMAN:**

Yes, good evening Mayor, members of the Council. I'd like to start off with also talking about the death of Mr. Floyd, The consensus of the Police Department is also the disturbing and shocking video that we watched. It's not the way we train it's not what the way we handle situations like that. The major problem we understand that it too is how it ruins the community partnership that we've worked with strong and hard to build with our community. That is one of the reasons we're working so hard and trying to accommodate the three protest marches that we had in the last Saturday and Sunday and then today again and while keeping the community safe. I'd like to say there was no incidents of any consequence to the talk on the 3 marches, we have no damage to any property that could be attributed to that situation. We had one instance and we still have a good strong community partnership. We were called quickly on Sunday afternoon. During one of those when some opportunists attempted to break into the pawn shop on Washington, and with a quick response on led by a Deputy Chief Hunt, who was on the street at the time, they interrupted before they were able to do anything and they left and they were able to get away but we stopped them from being able to break into a pawn shop. So far everything is going in well in reference to that in town. In regards to Alderman Osenga's concern we are having too many shots fired calls and that's a primary concern what our department are working hard and it is our highest priority to be addressing those issues. In the last day, we had we recovered two guns. Last night, the one that you referred to, we had a shooting at like 1:40A.M. officers we're able to pursue three or four subjects, and they were able to find one of the guns that was dumped by without the subjects, when they were fleeing. This morning we unfortunately had another shooting in the 300 block of North of Evergreen and on that case because of the partnership we have with the housing police were able to capture that on video. We have two juveniles and guns recovered from that shooting today. So, we're doing everything we can on enforcement level in trying to address these issues. Taking it a step further and we just noticed over the weekend the Shot Spotter Grant that our department applied for we've been awarded a grant of \$48,000 for the \$49,000 project. So, we'll be happy to bring to you the Shot Spotter contract and have that come up for

a vote in reference to whether we proceed with that. And that'll help us more efficiently respond to calls and be able to pinpoint calls within 10-15 foot radius of where the shots were actually fired. So we'll be able to collect more, we'll get there faster, be able to pinpoint an area and maybe talk to people that would be involved or have better witnesses, and also respond to the cause faster so if someone does get injured like last summer when we hit a subject that we found shot off of Court Street we'd be able to get a medical attention faster. So, it is something that we are working on ...our highest priority. We've also started a pilot program, we have two officers now on our judging patrol unit. It has a body worn camera, trying to build up with the community partnership and also with the system, help with accountability for the police department the eyes of the public and also help the officers themselves with the body cameras and we're doing our due diligence to find which program would be the most cost effective, and the best one that we think we can implement. So, hopefully by the end of summer, we'll have tested 3 different camera systems and be able to come with a recommendation to the council in reference to which one we could possibly implement. In reference to the vehicles that are speeding; ATVs and motorcycles we are aware that last Saturday, in the midst of all the protests and everything else we've been, we had about 60 of them come in and they were mostly from out of town, they pulled up with trailers and must have been some social media kind of event, and they came in, and we were able to catch through... I know we caught and cited 3 of the ATVs on Saturday, and at that point they seem to have moved on, out of town after that. So, it is that we are taking action on them. It is inherently dangerous to pursue it's because, as you know, chasing a motorcycle, or an ATV with a squad car is not so successful unless they crash. Be honest with you, and then that means someone's going to be hurt either them, or someone else in the public. So, we do that the last resort, and we usually do that in case something else would warrant some kind of a pursuit like that. But if we do one we do corner them and catch them. We do cite them and tow their vehicles because they're not registered for driving on the street. That's all that I have right now.

**BARBIE BREWER-WATSON:**

Thank you so much. I answered a lot of questions from different ...people in the past few days so I think I'm good

and I think you've got some things in your comments anyway and outdoor dining so I'll just leave that to you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Can you touch on bounce back?

**BARBIE BREWER-WATSON:** Yeah. So, we just under 300 applications for the Residential Assistance Program. So, we did pause that. We will process all of those and so we're working through that. It takes about 40 applications per day for intake, and then you have to follow up and get all the paperwork and all that other stuff. So be patient with us but we did have about 35 businesses, apply for assistance and we're starting that process as well. We are reaching out as fast as we can. I'm sure to the applicants we're not moving fast enough but we really are here at the EDCA team. So yeah, we're working through it and I'll keep reporting every month about where we're at and how many applications we've gone through in money that's been dispersed, things like that. Thank you Mayor.

**STEVE BERTRAND:** I like to announce that today we were open for curbside service for the first tag. I had my normal day at work for the first time since March 17 and I was overjoyed to be there. We had about 12 or 13 people take advantage of our, our curbside pickup today and we've already had 15 orders for tomorrow before we're even open for that day. So, we're quite pleased. We're going to try to see what kind of staffing it's going to take, our goal is to keep curbside service available as a service, once we go back to normal, and are out of our COVID situation because many libraries are doing that curbside service, even in a non-emergency situation. I'd also like to comment briefly on the tumultuous events in our country. I had a conversation with my staff today. As you, as most of you know we have a very diversified staff. I just discussed with doing YouTube or zoom based programming that will bring the police department perhaps or concerned member says together to have conversations. I don't know exactly what that will look like and I don't have anything to announce right now probably contact Chief because we want to be a place where people can communicate with one another and can share their stories about the city. And I think that would provide a good place for that to happen so well. We'll have more on that as we move forward. That's all right now.



**PETE SCHIEL:**

Just a few comments that maybe Alderman can help share pass the message on to their constituents couple weeks ago we had a seven to eight inch rain event, which equated to about 1.515 billion gallons of clean water in our community. Keep in mind that the waste treatment plant can only handle about 25 million gallons a day, down at the plant. I will say that two thirds of the constituents that I personally spoke with the one of the first questions I had asked is, if they had their sump pump tied into the sanitary sewer system. And there was a lot of hesitation and crickets I could hear crickets in the background. So, they weren't admitting that the sump pumps were tied in but keep in mind with your sink water, bathroom facility water, bathtub facility water, keep in mind that when you empty those drains it's only lasting maybe 30, 40 seconds, 50 seconds. When these individuals have their sump pumps tied to the system or the rain events... to get the water out of their basements for two three days 24 hours a day at a much higher volume than what would normally be in a design to sanitary infrastructure system, and surcharges those lines, hydraulically the path of least resistance is to fill basements. We actually had some residents mentioned that when their sump pumps kicked in that water was shooting out of their drains, well what was happening is they were taking the water and pumping it into one drain and filling their basement with another drain. So Jasmyne thank you for putting together that press release, based on sump pumps that was designated a couple weeks ago. AS for the Alderman, if you wouldn't mind taking that information, when you have people that have those complaints, you wouldn't mind sharing that. It would be greatly appreciated. But I just wanted to share some of those concerns with everybody. Thank you.

**TOMORA NELSON:**

Hello. The only thing I have is the Inspectors are working this is grass season so we're really busy. It's only three of them but they are working really hard trying to keep up with the grass. So, if you have grass in your area in your neighborhood. Just give me a call, and then we'll get it taken care of, but we try to do the best we can with what we have. So just keep in mind if you have a grass, just give me a call or email me and we can get it taken care of.

**ELIZABETH KUBAL:**

Thank you Mayor. One thing I wanted to reiterate, like Chairman O'Brien said, we have our budget committee meeting a week from tonight. You will receive those

materials, a wee bit earlier over the weekend for you to review. I hope I have new information, I will be researching and trying to come up with some solutions this week. I have not still though heard from the IML or from some other agencies regarding any updates with revenue numbers, we do have a new situation, perhaps to talk about regarding some of the sales tax of course with reopening and such, but I will have some new numbers but I just want everyone to remember that they probably won't look drastically different until we start getting into those additional meetings that Chairman O'Brien spoke about. Thank you.

**NEIL PIGGUSH:**

Thank you Mayor. Just to give everyone some updates on projects we have going on right now. MFT maintenance program for this year is out to bid and the bid opening will be June 9th. We are also working through our bid opening for the Safe Routes to School project is on July 31st. East Ridge drive, we started or completed the field work for the survey on the design of that and we are coordinating with Ricky Rockets engineer, as they are going to be making some tweaks to their site plan so we will coordinate our road improvement plans with their plans to make sure everything meshes well. So that's moving forward. The South Schuyler bike lane project we submitted a preliminary geometric plan to IDOT today for their review and comments for changing the lane configuration, a little bit heading down Schuyler. The River Street CN viaduct that add some repair, they have gotten bids from contractors. Those contracts are in review of CN and they should be starting to work in the coming weeks here so we had discussed closing off the road while they're working, and then opening it on the weekends. I think that's probably the best course of action in the interest of not only getting the project done efficiently but also public safety. That'll give them all week to make sure that they've got the necessary precautions in place to open that road of traffic on a weekends. They're only anticipating taking about two weeks we're only talking about possibly two weeks of closure for that. Hobbie Avenue, we have a coordination meeting for our preferred alternative for the Hobbie Avenue geometry on June, 11 with IDOT.... Once we get that approval we'll be moving forward with finalizing the plans, coming months. Francine Drive improvements we will be out doing surveys the next couple of weeks. The outcome of the survey work for that and the next few

weeks, and start on those plans. The East Court gateway signage project we've completed the survey and we'll begin doing plans on that. That topographic survey... Teska for their landscaping plan. And then the Fast Track Grant application that was approved at the last meeting was submitted on the 22nd of May, so that was about four days after it was approved so the Mayor can speak to more of that.

**KRIS SCHMITZ:**

Mentioned FOIA requests, it was mentioned at a meeting that I am supposed to send Alderpersons response to all the other men and women. I checked with our city attorneys they could not find any requirement under the (inaudible) Act, the Municipal Law Act, or city ordinance. It was also mentioned that they were not receiving the documents they requested. It's not a denial. If I know it's coming. It's an active FOIA request and when I get the documents, you will get them. But we don't have them I send them too till we get them, but they are coming and they remain an active FOIA request.

**JASMYNE HUMBLE:**

Thank you Mayor. I just wanted to say how proud I am of my hometown and our community in the light of the situation as everything is going on. I believe everyone is coming together and standing together and it's just really nice to see during this time. Also, just to follow up with what Cherry said, the young people are looking to us to set that example so I appreciate it. Just and update on Keenan he did make it, I've been following some of his updates all day. So, they have made it to Kankakee. He was greeted very well. A few things I wanted to mention, we do have State of the City this Thursday on June 4th, and that will be at 7:00P.M. or Mayor present State of the City, and then also our ... drive will end on Friday the fifth of June 5<sup>th</sup>. So, I wanted to thank again and local Berkot and Jewel for partnering with us on that. Real quickly, everything that I pulled I just wanted everyone to know that I do put them also on the top of the website. So, if you see Public Service Announcements most of those are on there as well as press releases and then I also created a tab called Restore Illinois for the business owners those updates are there as well. So, I just wanted everyone to know that. And that's all I have. Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Moving on to my updates. Legal was waiting to hear

from the Governor, and in my effort to get the information to the City Clerk's office so they can get the packets ready. I went ahead and approve the agenda. Prior to the update so we are still under a state of emergency. I know the Governor... Mike McGrath Where are you, he issued some additional orders, he issued some additional orders today. But that wasn't in response to up north, a several other municipalities had rioting looting disruptive and chaotic behavior going on in their municipality, we did not have that here in city of Kankakee. So, I just want to make that very clear. In terms of the outdoor dining ordinance we do not have one here in the city of Kankakee. I've asked the legal team to send over a draft. I want to thank Barbie and Brad and Mike Hoffman we've been going back and forth, trying to you know put together what makes sense and our legal team. So, I'm going to ask the legal team Mike McGrath There you are. If you could send this over to Economic Development and have that committee work with Barbie and Brad and our business owners. Temporarily, since we are under the state of emergency, I have directed Barbie and Brad to go ahead and work with the business owners on a case by case basis following the Governor's guidelines. He has left us some flexibility, you know, at the local level, but it's really going to be a case by case basis. I know Barbie reached out to KDC to some of our other community partners for picnic tables and that sort of thing to help them with outdoor dining. She and I did have a meeting, probably a couple weeks ago now, with some of the bar owners and some of them indicated that, you know, picnic tables and those things wouldn't work for them. So right now, she's working with them on a case by case basis and I put it in our updates that she's pretty much spoken or believe that all of our restaurants, but we will be following those guidelines and helping them get set up. We want to make sure that the city is protected so if they are using space outside the city property that we that they have insurance that protects us in case there's any accidents or anything. In terms of alcohol being served outside, I don't have an issue with that. I thought it would be reasonable to set a time of course on that. Not two o'clock or one o'clock in the morning. So, I want to talk to Barbie about that as well. So, we'll be moving forward with those business owners. Jasmyne already mentioned the state of the city that will be available for view on Channel 4 and Comcast live streamed from the website and also available on the city of Kankakee YouTube page. Alderman Curtis, I

assume that when you were giving your update you are going to get the liquor license ordinance to me. I still don't have that it's been out for several months and so if you could follow up with me I would appreciate it. Then remarks regarding George Floyd I read my statement already to you all, that I issued. Alderman Brian I don't know if you're still here but I want to thank you for your comments. Systemic racism and oppression has been a part of the origins of the United States of America. I'm speaking right now as an African American and a social worker, as someone who's always been a pursuer of justice. This is something that we cannot take lightly. I want to thank our police department Chief Kosman and Deputy Chief for the for the way that you all handled these protests and I really want to commend our community and especially our young people. The organizers and the people that participated. They were peaceful protests. I want to caution people on dividing our community. I've seen the comments, where the city officials, you know. My question is, did you invite the city officials? You know, a lot of these things went out last minute. Organizers that organized the protest I know I wasn't aware of it. And so, you know, I want you to be cautious and not alienating the people that are your allies, the people that sit in this chamber and represent you are your allies. These are the people that make decisions at the local level they impact your community in the impact public policy. We need to be cautious about doing that, people show their support and their activism in different ways. There may be someone on the council they couldn't they couldn't physically walk on the protests there may be somebody on council that you had other things going on that day. When you have to govern, I know a lot of people think it's easy to govern a lot of people have opinions, It's not. You're not governing with tunnel vision. For example, I was working on my State of the City address Saturday with someone. We still are trying to figure out, outdoor dining for our business owners, we still are living under COVID-19. I see people out with no masks. That makes me wonder are hospitals now going to be overwhelmed our health care system if people have been exposed. So, there's a lot of different things that are going on that we have to be paying attention to, particularly as people who are governing the community. So I just want to have you be cautious about that, because you have people here that are supportive of you and your efforts, especially when you're doing them peacefully and respectfully.

The other thing that I wanted to mention is protesting is a start but protesting alone is not going to change systemic racism and oppression in this country. The Chief spoke to the fact that we had no incidents in the city of Kankakee. I wanted to mention that. That's a narrative that gets created we have people that like to create narratives in this city and about our city. And you know it's far as I'm concerned is indicative of racism because the city of Kankakee is the most diverse most urban's municipality in our county. This is the place where most people of color live and there's this place where a lot of people choose to live because they want diversity, they want to live in a diverse community, but whenever there's something negative is start you know Kankakee gets drug in that. So, you know, people were making these posts that they were tearing up the city and looting and stores for shutting down. I think the stores wanted to be, take precautions because there were people supposedly coming from up north. I don't know why people come to Kankakee to do the things they do but they seem to come down here and do things, and I come in our county police department and the surrounding municipalities because they were all working collaboratively to communicate with one another. They had activated the emergency command. There were no incidents of looting and tearing up things and this stuff being set on fire none of that happened in Kankakee. People who do things like that, who start a narrative and spread their dislike, like that. In my opinion, are participating in some of these racist practices that we see in our society. This issue can no longer be ignored. When you see the highest office of our land sending tweets that you know when the looting starts the shooting starts and to say that the most violent dogs are going to be sicked don't people. I just want you all to know that that is the direct reference to racism in this country. We showed the movie Selma with Kankakee United we partnered with Paramount theatre earlier this year in February and that's what happened to people who were marching peacefully protesting for civil rights and equal treatment. Dogs we're sicked on them. So, Alderman O'Brien when you were talking about what can we do... really be mindful. When you hear a reference like that's going back to what we did to people in this country who were fighting for their rights to vote, and to be treated equally. I am just as emotional about this issue I think is everyone else but I have to choose to be very measured in my response, because as leaders we all need to do that, we

don't need people, quote unquote as the young people say poppin off, it's not effective. So again, peaceful protests are a start. I have issued a statement that I am elevating at the national level, Chief Kosman and I will be releasing a joint statement this week, calling to action Mayors, Police Chiefs and law enforcement in this country to stand against murder owners, not only on our streets, when it happens in our department. When you have a protest, you know, you're bringing awareness to an issue, but we do also need to establish an agenda. And for me, is going after policy, public policy and laws. And so we need to communicate as a community to do that. Also, in terms of economics that's another place where you can have impact so try to give some education to our young people. I will say that in the United States of America we understand the value of two colors the green for money, and red for blood. So, that leads me to an example there was a woman is employed at Kroger's that made a post that she hates black people that fair animals they're killing themselves. I mean horrific, horrific comments. I want to thank Kenya (inaudible) she's a young lady who saw the post. She got on Facebook and said, I'm going to Kroger this morning if anyone wants to join me please do, but follow my lead. She was very peaceful she spoke with the manager she was very polite and respectful and professional. She stated her concerns she said this woman is an employee in the deli department and she hates black people and I'm going to get food there she's going to taint my food, and she's going to do something to harm me. What is your mission for your company for Kroger? So, this was elevated to their corporate and she has been terminated. That's an effective way that you hit people, when they are doing these types of things when people are exhibiting racism and they don't respect you. You hit them, economically, and that was some of the lessons that we learned from our forefathers like I talked about Selma, Dr. King, they communicated with each other without division they didn't create division they communicated. They had an economic impact or establishment that were exhibiting racism and unfair treatment. They boycotted those establishments and then they went after policy. In the movie you saw him having meetings with the Chief of Staff of the President at the time and talking to the President to get civil rights legislation passed so you can't just protest, you have to have an agenda. So again, we will be releasing a joint statement the Chief and I proposed policy agenda items. I've already



started drafting some. I want you all to know that I support you and I support your peaceful efforts to protest. I will encourage you and help you in any way that I can. And we, I am going to be raising this issue I've already started at the national level with some of the organizations of which I'm apart. Som we have to be strategic we have to be measured we have to have an agenda. I want to thank the community who has reached out to me I've heard from faith leaders this weekend, I heard from college students, I've heard the moms of current police officers and I've heard from our young people, and those people look like me and they don't look like me because our community is made up of all kinds of people. Som I want to thank all of you for reaching out and I assure you that we are going to continue to work on this. I think that when we see behaviors and practices going on at the policy level here locally, that we have to point that out, respectfully to one another, that this is an example of unfair practice in our own community. So those are all my comments if anybody has any questions or needs anything for me, don't hesitate to reach out. At this time, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to adjourn?

**ALD COBBS:** So move.

**ALD MALONE MARSHALL:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Cobbs Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. Before I adjourn, Keenan love if you are still in town Thursday, I personally invite you to my State of the City. We only can have 10 people in the room, but I will like to have you here if you would like to be here for the State of the City address as my special guest. Otherwise we will connect at a later time. Som thank you all for your time this evening and your work and we'll see you next week. All in favor aye?

**COUNCIL:** Aye.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Opposed same sign. We are adjourned.